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Association between Triptan Use and Cardiac Contraindications in an Insured Migraine Population

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Methods: Study Population

- Ten representative commercial and/or Medicaid health plans in the MedAssurant Medical Outcomes Research for Effectiveness and Economics Registry (MORE Registry) were included in the study.

- Inclusion criteria:
  - All patients in the Migraine Population identified through claims were included in the analysis.
  - Each patient had at least one prescription for a triptan during the study period.

- The reporting year (the year of claims data on which measurement was based) was 2009.

- Only adult members between ages 18 and 64, with both medical and pharmacy benefits, were eligible for inclusion (N = 2.5 million, across the 10 plans).

- The Migraine Population was identified through claims diagnosis and treatment:
  - 1,219,461 patients were identified as having migraine.

- Distribution of triptan use by age group:
  - 22.0% of patients were age 18-49 years old.
  - 40.0% of patients were age 50-64 years old.

- Results

- Migraine Quality of Care Measurement Definitions

- RX.2 Prescription for a Triptan
  - N (95.5) (92.7) (7.7)
  - N (94.0) (96.8) (40.0) (72.0) (13.7) (7.7)

- Distribution of Triptan Prescriptions AND Cardiac Contraindication(s) by Age Group

- Cardiac contraindications were identified using ICD-9 codes, visit notes, and pharmacy claims.

- Distribution of Triptan Prescriptions AND Cardiac Contraindication(s) by Age Group

- Migraine Quality of Care Measurement Set (RX.2 and RX.8) by Age Group

- RX.8 Prescription for a Triptan
  - N (94.0) (96.8) (7.7)

Key Findings

- 7.7% of the Migraine Population were identified as having a cardiac contraindication to a triptan during the measurement year.

- 37.7% of the Migraine Population had at least one triptan prescription filled during the measurement year (RX.2).

- 22.0% of the Migraine Population having at least one triptan prescription filled during the measurement year had a cardiac contraindication to a triptan (RX.8). This rate ranged from 3.2% to 7.8% across the 10 plans.

- More than twice as many individuals in the 50-64 age group were using triptans as those in the 18-49 age group.

Discussion

- Triptans and Cardiac Contraindications
  - Our data show that almost 8% of the Migraine Population had a cardiac contraindication as determined by at least one medical or pharmacy claim during the measurement year.
  - Twenty-two percent of the Migraine Population identified as having a cardiac contraindication used a triptan during the measurement year. Highly varied rates of use between health plans is of particular interest.
  - Our study demonstrates an unmet medical need for migraine patients who have cardiovascular disease risks.

- The Migraine Quality Measurement Set
  - This examination of two measures included in the Migraine Quality Measurement Set demonstrates the potential value of the measures to identify pharmacy utilization trends.
  - In addition to identifying a general concern about the widespread use of triptans in the at-risk population with cardiac contraindications, the pilot test demonstrates significant variation between plans.
  - The measures can be of value to health plans in identifying potential quality and safety issues and comparing their performance with national benchmarks.

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